

STATEMENT BY LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI ON MAY REVISION

SACRAMENTO – Lt. Governor John Garamendi had the following comments today on the Governor's revised budget proposal:

"Today's budget revision does not live up to the promise or the needs of this great state and its people. It sorely lacks the long term structural solutions that will move our state forward and cuts right at the heart of the most vulnerable among us – slashing more than \$2 billion from the health and human services January proposal."

"While some cuts to education were restored, we should be clear that this level of funding will leave our schools and our children's hungry minds on a starvation diet.

"I am also concerned that mortgaging the lottery amounts to California taking a risky big spin -- possibly diverting money that has been promised to education, and balancing the budget with the promise of a future ballot measure.

"There is no question that our state's chronic structural imbalance calls us to carefully examine our budgeting priorities and to seek reforms that increase efficiency of all state programs. We must remember that the success of the Golden State over the past half century was based on a robust, entrepreneurial private sector matched by state investments that propelled us into the 21st century."

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